GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:349
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005
HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORK PLACE
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of harassment of women at the work place has been on the rise;

(b) if so, the details of such cases registered both with the Government and National Commission for Women during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(c) the number of cases settled/pending at present,State-wise;

(d) the reasons for their pendency; ,

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the growing incidents of harassment of women at work places;

(f) whether the Government has received any suggestions from social organizations in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):

(a) to (c) Data relating to cases of harassment of women at the workplace is not maintained centrally. The cases of sexual harassment of women at the workplace are not required to be registered with the Government or the National Commission for Women (NCW). These have to be dealt with by the Complaints Committee set up in the respective organizations as per the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the Vishaka case. In so far as complaints on the subject received by the NCW and the Department of Women and Child Development are concerned, there has been no increase in the overall number of complaints. The number of complaints received by the NCW, the number of complaints disposed of and the number of complaints under process are given state-wise in the statement-I enclosed- Similar information in respect of the Department of Women and Child Development is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The pendency is due to non-receipt of reports from the concerned organizations.

(e) Statement-III is enclosed.

(f) to (h) NCW had suggested a draft Bill for the prevention and redressal of sexual harassment of women at the workplace in consultation with women`s/social organizations. Based on the consultations with the Ministries/Departments, State Governments and concerned women`s and social organizations, a modified Bill has been now put on the website of the Department of Women and Child Development for inviting comments.